

kneel and wash my brother's feet. The church is needing the command in John 13: 12-17, to humble some of the proud hearts in our churches who are ashamed to do everything our God commands. Without the inward cleansing, baptism is nothing. Without the inward feeling of humility, feet washing is nothing.

Fourth: It is spoken of in the *Herald* as "an antiquated custom which has lost its significance." "Lost its significance!" When? Why I thought it was merely a custom—an act of duty. But it had some significance, then, did it? When did it lose it, my brother? It lost it only as the church grew proud and lost the thing it signified. A custom? Was not the washing of the body a custom in those days also? If not, it had ought to have been. Consequently, because it was a custom we must not baptize. Custom! Suppose the washing of feet was a custom. What has that got to do with the command of God, "Ye ought to wash one another's feet." Because there was a similarity between a custom and a command, that makes the command of none effect, does it?

Anxious one, believe me. There is virtue in obeying every commandment of our blessed Redeemer—in obeying him "in newness of spirit, not in oldness of letter." In complete obedience to God we receive that perfect assurance that we shall regain the paradise that was lost to us thro disobedience. Does our Bible say so? Then do it, and go on your way with a conscience as clear as the noonday sun. Consecrate your life to God, take him at his word, go forward, stepping in his footsteps, and at last you will pass with the ransomed thro the gates into the city of our God.

You have been baptized. You have in the right spirit obeyed the commands thus far, and you thank God for the beautiful symbol of bodily cleansing. The Master gave us the ordinance of feet washing as a beautiful symbol of humility, and of cleansing from the dust (sins) that gathers upon the feet as they press forward in this wilderness of sin to "Canaan's fair and happy land."

After performing the act itself, he gave too plainly to be misunderstood, three direct commands telling us that it should be obeyed.

1. "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye ought to wash one another's feet."

2. "For I have given you an ex-

ample that ye should do as I have done to you."

3. "For if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Look at that word "ought," and then read these true words spoken by that saintly man, Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler D. D. in the *Golden Rule* for March 11, 1897.

"The essence of the best Christian character is even more than faith; it is obedience to the Master; it is the keeping of his commandments and submission to his holy and loving will. Don't make too much of 'aesthetics' or the emotional in your religion; let its home and headquarters be in your conscience. There is a tremendous grip in that word 'ought'; what you ought to be and what you ought to do must be your first consideration; and obedience to Christ's words, and submission to Christ's will, is about the true idea of the beauty of holiness."

"What is Truth," asked Pilate. Naught but the eternal word of God is Truth. Let mortals know this Truth, enough for man to know. Dying men and women, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."

Auburn, Ill.

THE HARVEST AND LABORERS.

DAISY ELINOR RIGGLE.

How can we awaken ministers to the fact that the harvest is great and the laborers are few?

I have looked at this question from every conceivable standpoint. I have dissected it; I have revolved it; I have turned it over and over and have concluded that it is very difficult to answer.

Before me arises a dark monster-like phantom and it says to me "Do your ministers need to be awakened to this fact?" and I am loth to answer Yes, with a capital Y.

Precious souls are daily, yea hourly going down to ruin and in places where a helping hand could be extended to lift them higher.

Churches are standing with closed doors and empty pulpits in a land abounding with ministers. Young people that once sought God's sacred edifice of prayer, wander elsewhere, and what excuse will we give God for our negligence? Shall we tell him we were tired or found more pleasure at some picnic or ball game?

Let us see every worker in Christ's vineyard up and about his father's business. Be in earnest; toil bravely

onward, and if you know a minister who is inclined to be sleepy in God's work, show him that you are in earnest and it will strengthen, enthuse and arouse him to renewed energy in his chosen vocation. Never encourage your pastor—he does not expect it.

If he preaches a sermon that arouses some of your dormant faculties and appeals to your heart, never tell him of it—he might preach longer next time.

If I were to answer the question placed before me, I would simply say, pray to God to remove the scales from your eyes and then look about you and you will see that the harvest is truly great and the laborers few.

Sin and death are abroad in the land; we have no time to rest, no time for anything but earnest work and fervent prayer.

Prayer is the magic power through which we converse with God.

Kindness and sympathy are necessary portions of the Christian constitution. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of God."

Remember that our actions are often the guide which others follow. Our influence goes on through ages and through eternity and others are following in our footsteps. How often do we hear people say "I have my opinion of that church. I saw some of the members do wrong things."

"Ye are the light of the world and if your light be dim and as a result others fail to see the way clearly, you shall be held to account. We may break the laws of society as often as we please, and we may evade the laws of man, providing we do it cunningly, but the laws of God are sacred and the person who neglects or breaks them is sentenced as soon as the crime is consummated.

We know it is God's will that we should be busy workers, that we should toil in his vineyard, and help to garner in the precious sheaves of grain; that we should toil diligently, for the night cometh wherein no man can work."

Why should the path seem lonely? Why should the work seem hard? It is a glorious, blessed condition to be found working for the Savior. All things are changed and nothing but the love of God endures. Earthly friends fail us; the things we felt most sure of have receded into the dim past. Arouse yourselves, ye who need to be awakened and gird on